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constructed, will most likely forever remain unknown. Some suppose them the strong-holds of Spanish pirates, which I think is altogether unlikely. We shall hope to make some further exploration, and then shall be happy to communicate any information."

The same letter states that the language of Ascension differs from all others spoken in that part of the Pacific.

E. E. S.

VIII. OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES EXPEDITION TO THE DEAD SEA.

"The official Report of the United States Expedition to explore the Dead Sea and the River Jordan, was published in part by order of the United States Senate, but the manner in which the work was executed was so little creditable, either to the enterprising officers who had charge of it, or to the Government under whose authority it was undertaken, that the late Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Graham, authorized its publication by Lieut. M. F. Maury, Superintendent of the National Observatory, in a more appropriate style. The execution of the work was entrusted to Messrs. John Murphy & Co., of this city, who have recently issued it in a very neat quarto volume, handsomely bound and gilt. The Report, as published by the Senate, consisted only of the narrative portion of the Commander of the Expedition, Lieut. W. F. Lynch; but the geological portion was not included in it, as it was not then finished. The volume, as published by Messrs. Murphy & Co., contains the large and comprehensive map of the Dead Sea and the River Jordan, with the surrounding country, constructed from the joint labors of Lieutenants Lynch and Dale, and Passed Midshipman Aulick, as well as numerous plates of fossil remains found during the geological explorations."—*Baltimore American*.

The geological part of this Report is by our associate Dr. Henry J. Anderson.

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INTELLIGENCE.

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X. TEXT OF THE ATHARVA-VEDA.

It was announced in our last Number, that Mr. William D. Whitney of Northampton, Mass., a member of the Am. Or. Society, had been collating the MSS. of this Veda, in Berlin, preparatory to publishing it. He has lately gone to Paris, to perform the same labor there, and intends, also, to collate the MSS. in England. The printing will, probably, be begun before the end of the summer. Professor Roth of Tübingen is associated with Mr. Whitney as joint editor. The learned world may expect, therefore, soon to have a valuable edition of this important work—the first Sanskrit publication in which an American has been concerned. A recent letter from Mr. Whitney informs us that, on careful comparison of the text of the Atharva with that of the Rik, which had not been made when his paper on the results of the later Vedic researches in Germany, inserted in another part of this Number, was written, “the relation turns out to be essentially different from that which had been conjectured. If, namely,” he says, “there be left out of account, in estimating the Atharva, on the one hand, the twentieth book, (which, as stated, is a mere collection of extracts from the Rik,) and, on the other, the prose portions which occur here and there, in two instances constituting whole books, there will remain not much over 4000 verses, of which only about 625, not one-sixth, admit of identification with corresponding Rik passages.” Mr. Whitney finds reason, also, to modify what he has said of the origin and value of the various names of the Atharva, in the paper referred to, “since the light which the text